



How to Fund Energy Conservation Projects at California Wastewater Treatment Facilities

There is help from federal, state, and private sources!

Upgrading a facility can be a problem when you don't know about funding solutions. Financial assistance provided by federal, state, and private sources can make efficiency affordable and practical. The federal government provides grants, loans, and rebates. California agencies also provide grants, loans, rebates, renewable credits, and stand-by rates for energy conservation practices. Local utility districts provide private sources of funding as do private third-party leasing arrangements and pooled bond financing.



Federal and State Sources

Federal sources of funding for medium and large utilities are primarily awarded through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), which offers grants, low interest loans, and rebates as incentives for installing cogeneration systems. The California Energy Commission (CEC), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) offers a number of financing options through loans, rebates, and other incentives.

FEDERAL

DOE Climate Change Technology Program:	www.climate technology.gov/opportunities/index.htm
DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Financing Opportunities:	www1.eere.energy.gov/financing/business.html
DOE Renewable Energy and Production Incentive:	www.eere.energy.gov/repil/
DOE Loan Guarantee Program:	www.lgprogram.energy.gov/
DOE Tribal Energy Program:	http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/
U.S. EPA Air grants:	www.epa.gov/air/grants

CALIFORNIA

CEC CA Rebate Program for Wind and Fuel Cell Renewable Energy Electric Generating Systems:	www.consumerenergycenter.org/erprebate/index.html
CA CEC 3.95% Loans for Energy Efficiency and Energy Generation Projects:	www.consumerenergycenter.org/erprebate/index.html
CEC Handbook "How to Finance Public Sector Energy Efficiency Projects:	www.energy.ca.gov/reports/efficiency_handbook/400-00-001A.PDE
CPUC Feed-in Tariffs:	www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/electric/RenewableEnergy/feedintariffs.htm
CPUC Solar Incentives:	www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/solar
CPUC self generation program:	www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/sgip
CDWR Proposition 50:	www.owue.water.ca.gov/finance/index.cfm
CA Waterboards SRF:	www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/ CleanWaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov

Power Utilities Incentives:

Some of the larger power utilities in California offer incentives to wastewater treatment plants to move toward greater energy efficiency.

California Power Utilities

PG&E Self Generation Program	www.pge.com/selfgen/
PG&E Rebates, Incentives, and Design Assistance:	http://pge.com/mybusiness/energysavingsrebates/incentivesbyindustry/wastewater/
Sacramento MUD Business Rebates and Incentives:	www.smud.org/business/rebates/index.html
San Diego Gas and Electric Rebates and Savings:	www.sdge.com/business/esc/large/largemain.shtml
Southern CA Edison Industrial Energy Efficiency Program:	www.sce.com/RebatesandSavings/LargeBusiness/Industrial/EEP.htm
Southern CA Edison Self Generation Program:	www.sce.com/RebatesandSavings/SelfGenerationIncentiveProgram/

Other Financing Solutions

There are a number of creative financing solutions when internal funding is not available. Some of those solutions are outlined in the CECs 2000 publication, "How to Finance Public Sector Energy Efficiency Projects." One successful strategy involves establishing partnerships between energy service companies (ESCOs) and municipalities/facilities for the purpose of financing and implementing cost-saving energy efficiency improvements. The ESCO pays the up front cost of purchasing and installing new equipment, and the municipalities/facilities repay the ESCO over with the cost savings achieved through the project. This strategy is an attractive approach to upgrading as it reduces the up front capital and limits potential liability and risk.

More Information

Energy efficient practices and technologies can save money, water and energy. Simple upgrades like replacing old, inefficient equipment will reduce maintenance costs and our impact on the environment. For case studies and more information about efficiency practices at water and waste water treatment facilities, and more funding opportunities, visit our website:

EPA Region 9 Energy and Water Efficiency in Water and Wastewater Facilities:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waterinfrastructure/>

Funding Databases

Combined Heat and Power Funding Opportunities	http://www.epa.gov/chp/funding/bio.html
Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency	http://www.dsireusa.org/
Federal Funding Opportunities Energy Efficiency	http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/pollprev/pdf/funding_opportunities.pdf
How to Finance Public Sector Energy Efficiency Projects	http://www.energy.ca.gov/reports/efficiency_handbooks/400-00-001A.PDF
Database of all federal grants	grants.gov